



TPB Staff Director's Report September, 2008

Board members are reminded that we are having a **combined** Planning and Funding and Operations and Oversight committee meeting on **Thursday, September 25, 2008. Lunch will be served at 11:30 and the meeting will start at noon.** Going to this format will eliminate the overlap on the Committee agendas and provide us with another opportunity to have relevant discussions facilitating a recommendation on regional transit governance.

At the August 28, 2008 meeting, the TPB Board voted to adopt Concept 3 as the regional transit vision. We have also requested that our planning partners MARTA, GRTA, GDOT and ARC also adopt Concept 3. The MARTA Board took action on September 15, 2008 to adopt Concept 3. The adoption will be introduced to ARC committees in October 2008. For an update on the status of adoption by our planning partners, refer to **Agenda Item # IV.2.** This action by our partners will formally incorporate Concept 3 into the regional transportation planning process and will facilitate positive actions towards the advancement of regional transit. Board adoption of Concept 3 also signals the accomplishment of one of the TPB's main goals; that being the development and adoption of a regional transit vision.

Our next task is to focus our energies and attention on the TPB's other two goals: a recommendation on regional transit governance and a funding analysis and implementation strategy. During the August Board meeting, we spent time in breakout working sessions and had a very productive discussion on a regional governance structure (refer to **Agenda Item # IV.4.**). Our work on the regional governance structure will continue in September at the Board committee meetings. We are ambitiously working towards a recommendation on regional governance within the November-December timeframe.

Thus, during the months of July and August we have worked to complete our analysis of Concept 3 including making changes to the concept based upon the inputs we received from the six month long public involvement process. These changes were shared with the Board at the July Committee meetings along with our initial draft summary of the impacts of Concept 3. That work is being completed and you have materials in your Board packets for September (refer to **Agenda Item # IV.1.**). We have also worked closely as a team with MARTA and our planning partners to develop an illustrative phased implementation plan for Concept 3 to facilitate the discussion of a regional governance structure and funding scenario. We used the results at our August 28, 2008 breakout sessions to move us closer to defining a potential regional structure for transit. We will discuss the issue further in the September committee meetings and again in October.

Due to the abbreviated business section of the TPB August meeting, we did not have an update from the Operations and Oversight committee. The service coordination activities of the TPB that are overseen by this committee of the Board have been one of our most successful efforts. We as a region get together on a monthly basis with all of the service providers in the region, exchange information and identify ways we can work together to provide better coordinated regional transit services. Through our quarterly Bus Maintenance Forum, we have indentified how our region might coordinate to share the cost and improve the training for our bus maintenance personnel and improve safety. Other information on regional service coordination includes the following:

- MARTA hosted an “Energy Roundtable” on September 3, 2008 to discuss strategies for fuel procurement and price hedging. As a follow up, MARTA is inviting all public sector users of fuel to discuss opportunities for joint pool procurement and/or joining in a price hedge to assist with taking the volatility of fuel price. An Email from the MARTA Treasurer with contact information is attached.
- The Service Coordination Council had a work session on the *TPB Downtown Midtown Service Interruption Contingency Plan* - TPB Staff will be making some minor revisions and following up with a request for implementation.
- The Service Coordination Council came to a consensus that the group should continue to meet following dissolution of the TPB in December.

The TPB Staff continues to work closely with the State’s Mc Kinsey consulting team; providing them with the data and analysis we have developed on transit in our region along with the TPB’s progress on governance. We are hopeful these inputs are beneficial in the IT³ efforts that are underway.

During the Month of August through mid September, TPB Staff held the following meetings and briefings:

- Beltline Scoping meeting to provide input on coordination with Concept 3;
- Georgia State Environmental Conference to present information on concept 3;
- TPB Technical Committee to review the revised Concept 3 and the Illustrative Phased Implementation Plan;
- Quarterly Bus Maintenance Forum Hosted by First Transit;
- Central Atlanta Progress to update them on the revised Concept 3 and the TPB’s next steps;
- City of Atlanta Transportation Committee to brief them on Concept 3;
- Clayton County briefing on their Comprehensive Transportation Plan and coordination with Concept 3;
- GDOT Intermodal staff and Chief Engineer to discuss conflicts with Concept 3;
- Briefing for Senator Doug Stoner and Representative Ed Setzler on Concept 3;
- Concept 3 briefing for Fulton County Commission; and
- Update on TPB governance discussion for Mc Kinsey and IT³ effort.